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THE VOTE.

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THE PEOPLE.

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential).....	1,000
In 1890.....	10,000
In 1892 (Presidential).....	31,577
In 1894.....	82,182
In 1896 (Presidential).....	94,564
In 1897.....	55,678

Children who read my lay,

This much I have to say:

Each day and every day

Do what is right!

Right things in great and small;

Then though the sky should fall,

Sun, moon and stars, and all,

You shall have light!

ALICE CARY.

A LEADING CASE.

Much of the space in this issue is taken up with the "Seidenberg Spectre." Let none imagine "such trade union matters too trivial" to deserve so much notice; it is the voice of wisdom that sounds through the Scriptural warning: "They who neglect small things shall be wholly undone." Neither let any turn away in disgust from such "dirty trade union affairs"; as well might the anatomist be a closet-man, and, feeling nausea at the foulness of the human body, refuse to handle the decomposing organ.

The trade union movement is an integral part of the Social Question. It is, in the anatomy of the Labor Movement, a navel string, fruitful of good, and yet capable of throttling that which it is meant to feed. It has to be reckoned with; and, to be reckoned with, it must be understood.

To all those whom the spirit moves to go out into the present Social Wilderness, the pioneers and apostles of a New Civilization, every line in the long article "The Seidenberg Spectre" is earnestly commended. The tale it unfolds will enlighten, though it may disenchant. To appropriate its lessons is to secure no mean staff in treading the thorny path that stretches out before them. It is a "leading case" demonstrating the timeliness, wisdom, urgent necessity of the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance in our movement in America.

THE HAVERHILL INCIDENT.

A party—carrying the word "Socialist" as part of its name, and with a platform taken substantially from that of the Socialist Labor party—has recently sprung up in Haverhill, Mass., and virtually carried the city, electing its Mayor and several other municipal offices. A stranger, unacquainted with men and things in this country, would, if a capitalist, take alarm, and, if a Socialist, be filled with joy at the occurrence. Both would have been wrong in this particular instance: indeed, the capitalist class, through its press, has shown every thing but alarm; while the Socialists throughout the land have been filled with everything but joy.

The official name of the victorious Haverhill party, as well as its Socialist platform, is a piracy committed by a few political adventurers, who have for some time been trying to be wafted into notoriety and office. They used every "reform" movement that had come along, and finally appeared in the paint and feathers of Populism, preaching all the absurdities and indulging in all the tinsel of that movement. Success for their sordid ambition seemed certain, but the bubble burst, and adventurers were once more stranded.

Long before the tide of Populism had ebbed in the West, it dropped from its high promises in the East, Massachusetts particularly, and there remained above the waters the Socialist Labor party alone, growing out of small beginnings, radiating in all directions, winning friends by its soundness and integrity, overthrowing foes by its vigor. The Haverhill coterie of political adventurers promptly changed coats. The word "Socialism," hitherto sneered at as un-American, the Socialist platform, hitherto denounced as preposterous, and shown to have that in them that none of the movements that had come up seemed to possess. They adopted both its name and platform (although in Haverhill itself they go by two or three other and less offensive names) and, possessed of the necessary low cunning, they succeeded in drawing to themselves a sufficient following to gain both notoriety and office.

That the leaders of the misled Haverhill workmen, who voted them into office, are no Socialists; that they have only caught a few phrases with which they strut about like the Jackdaw in the fable with the stolen peacock

feathers; that, indeed, they are of the common genus of "reform" adventurers—all that is now made clear enough by their post-election utterances, and will be made still clearer in the near future to those who yet can not see. To those with eyes, however, the character of the Haverhill "Democratic Socialist," "Social Democratic," "Independent Citizens Reform," etc., etc., party have for some time been known. Three facts some time ago stamped it what they are.

In the first place, Mr. James F. Carey, one of the leaders, and elected last year Councilman, is, by the unanimous accord of his Democratic and Republican colleagues, forthwith made President of the body. Democrats and Republicans may not know much, but they surely have the instinct of all animals: they can tell whom to trust and who endangers their existence. They scented safety in Mr. Carey. A Socialist never could have accomplished the feat that Mr. Carey did, a Socialist never would have had distinction, and, thereby increased power bestowed upon him by the politicians of Capital.

The second fact attested to the unrighteousness of the scent of those capitalist politicians. Barely a few months in office, when a bill turned up for an appropriation of \$15,000 for an Armory, Mr. Carey voted for it, and his "Socialist organization" allowed the act to go by unopposed, did not demand his prompt resignation for such treason to the working class!

The third fact preceded the second and was preparatory thereto: Mr. Carey withdrew from the Socialist Labor party, of which he was a member, and on whose platform he was elected, and thus freed his hands for the peculiar "reforms" that he had in mind.

In view of all this the mystery is explained: of the joy of the capitalist press at the success of the Haverhill "Socialists": it is in the interest of capitalism, particularly at this season of sound Socialist growth, to seek either to smirch the name of Socialism or cause the American proletariat to be decoy-ducked away from the S. L. P. camp whither they are evidently tending. In the latter case, the lightning will be run into the ground, a successful bogus Socialist party would be a valuable political lightning-rod; in the former case, the workmen may be so disgusted at the treason or incapability of "Socialist" officers as wholly to throw up the sponge of resistance.

But neither case will happen. The vigorous repudiation of the "Democratic Socialism" of Haverhill on the part of the S. L. P. will break the lightning in two, and will also free the S. L. P. of all responsibility for the pranks and the wrongs of the Haverhill victorious candidates. Eventually, if not sooner, and starting with Haverhill itself, the proletariat will realize that its party must be a party, not of irresponsible political pirates, but the well-knit Socialist Labor party of the land.

The 32nd and 33rd Assembly Districts, Branch of Section New York, will have its first lecture of the season at Sylvan Hall, 119th street and Second avenue, Sunday, Dec. 18, 8 p. m., with Arthur Keep as the speaker.

Comrade Thos. E. Hickey, of Brooklyn, will visit Philadelphia on December 17 and 18, and will address two meetings—one at Kensington Labor Lyceum, Second and Cambria streets, on the evening of Saturday, the 17th, and the other on Sunday evening, the 18th, at Central Labor Lyceum, Sixth and Brown streets. The State tour of Comrade Hickey is now being arranged, and will be published in THE PEOPLE as soon as completed.

Atgeld-Tanner.

(Continued from page 1.)

ing his index finger at right angle with his cheek of duplicity: "Why, don't you know, young man, we have three companies ready to quell any disturbance that may arise in this strike? Don't you know that fifty soldiers with five gatling guns can clean out 5,000 strikers?"

But in justice to these miners, this degrading act was not originated by them, but by the labor fakirs. Though it has only 4,000 population, still it is infested with the labor fakir, who unite toolers against the capitalists in a strike, but divide them against the capitalists at the ballot box—divide them into two capitalist parties, the Democratic and Republican.

C. R. DAVIS.

In Lynn, Mass.

(Continued from page 1.)

every child and mother was singing with contentment. Bring about such conditions in our city and the business interests of Lynn will take care of themselves. Once more we call upon the people of Lynn to lay aside prejudice and to think and act with the only party which has got a common-sense programme for the administration of affairs, by voting for all the candidates of the Socialist Labor party and by becoming members of the Lynn Section. Yours for Liberty and Happiness, LYNN SECTION, S. L. P.

The numerous calls that have come in for the New Bedford speech "What Means This Strike?" published in these columns a few weeks ago, has determined the National Executive Committee to reprint it in pamphlet form. It can be had at the Labor News Company, 64 E. 4th street, this city. Single copies, 5 cents; 10 copies, 30 cents; 100 copies, \$2.50.

LITHOGRAPHERS, ORGANIZE!

In THE PEOPLE of October 30, the undersigned organization published a call headed "Lithographers, Attention." The statement of facts and principles made and the plan of organization outlined therein, have since met with adverse criticism. It is said that there is no need of improvement and organization in lithography; that the organization proposed by us is impracticable; that the interests of capital and labor are identical; and that the introduction of inventions gives the workers more employment, especially in lithography. In addition, our membership is charged with a belief in the efficacy of the trust; and a disregard for the political and religious beliefs of our opponents. This organization welcomes such criticism, as it gives the organization an opportunity to propagate its plans and principles.

That there is a need of improvement in lithography will be apparent upon examination of the list of strikes given elsewhere in this article; and upon recollection of the many complaints of bad conditions heard on all sides. That there is need of an organization composed of all branches, is apparent from the failure of the most recent of those strikes (the artists and feeders); and the presence of large numbers of unorganized. A few years ago, the Tariff Committee of the National Lithographers' Association (Employers), stated that the number of persons employed at lithography in this country was 17,302. Say 7,000, or 40 per cent. of them cannot be organized, on account of non-sympathy, or peculiarity of employment, are the other 10,000 organized? Every well-informed lithographer knows that large numbers of artists (both commercial and theatrical, engravers, designers, stone-grinders, embossers, and even many feeders, transferers, proofers, and pressmen, not to mention girls and women, do not belong to any trade organization whatever. He knows, furthermore, that there is no form of organization uniting the branches best organized—the feeders and the printers; or, uniting those branches and the labor movement in general; or uniting the national organizations of those branches and "The International Federation of Lithographers." To say, under the foregoing circumstances, that there is no need of improvement and organization in lithography, is to betray either an ignorance of facts, or a willful determination to utter falsehoods regarding them. The same may be said also of the criticism of our plan of organization; for every well-informed lithographer knows that that plan is in practical operation in Europe to-day.

In substantiation of this assertion, we refer every lithographer to "The Report of the First International Congress of Lithographers," held in London, in 1885. On page 13 of that report appears the report of the delegates from Germany, the Mother of Lithography. From this delegates' report, we learn of the "Trade Society of the Graphic Arts, of Workmen and Workwomen of Germany," having branches in 129 towns, with over 4,700 members. The Society comprises nine various branches, or craft, as follows: lithographers, printers, colotype printers, stone-grinders, stampers, or embossers (male or female), zinc printers, copper-plate printers, stereotypers, and wall-paper printers." On page 15, the same delegates' report, is this statement: "We stand firmly on the basis of the modern Labor Movement"; in other words, they are Socialists. Austria, France, Switzerland, Italy, and England, also report organizations uniting all or many branches in one society; while Austria, Italy, and some societies of France, are, along with Germany, outspoken advocates and adherents of the Socialist Labor parties of their respective countries. All these societies have no trouble in uniting and promoting the interests of all branches. The numerical strength of their membership is constantly increasing; while the economic condition of their membership is gradually improving. Thus, we see that the plan of uniting various branches in one society; and, in turn, affiliating that society with the lithographic societies of Europe through "The International Federation of Lithographers" and the Modern Labor Movement through the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance, will not end in disruption and disaster as our critics contend it will. On the contrary, since there is no such superb organization of lithography in this country, as there is in the Socialist countries of Europe, we are justified in stating that the impracticable plan is not the one we propose, but the one that has been in vogue in this country prior to the birth of this organization. All of the organizations represented in the above-mentioned congress, are, like the organizations of this country, composed of employees, for protective and beneficial purposes. If our critics are correct in assuming that the interests of capital and labor are identical, then why are not these organizations mutual benefit organizations? Why do they protect the employee against the employer? Or, on the other hand, why do they (the employees) not join their employers' associations and seek protection and benefits there?

That the interests of capital and labor are not identical has been repeatedly shown in strikes and other forms of combined resistance in lithography in this country. We refer to: The Printers' Shorter-Day Strike, Philadelphia, 1886; Transferers' Strike against employment of girls, Buffalo, 1891; Engravers' Strike, for same reason, Cincinnati, 1892; Artists' General Strike for abolition of piece-work, regulation of apprentices, minimum wage, payment of time and a half for overtime and reduction of weekly hours, New York, 1896; Feeders' Strikes, three in number, for increased wages, New York, 1897-98; and many small strikes of pressmen, proofers, etc., for minimum wage, New York, during the past two years. Also the abandoned attempt to introduce the teaching of art lithography at the Drexel and Pratt Institutes, Philadelphia and Brooklyn respectively, by the employers, who, in 1881, and again in 1894, attempted an attempt that was quietly and determinedly opposed by the artist employees, who said its success would overstock an already crowded market. Likewise, was the abandoned attempt to introduce boys in the transfer room in New York, this year; an attempt

that met with the quiet and determined opposition of the transferers. Thus we see, from this open and diplomatic use of the compulsion of organization, that the interests of capital and labor are not identical. And, since the profits of capital must be realized by the exploitation of labor, since in other words, the employer's gain is the employee's loss, the interests of capital and labor will not be identical as long as capitalism prevails. If this is not so, then what reason can be given for striking for shorter work days; and against girls and boys in the transfer and engravers' room; and piece-work in the artists' room?

The old sophism that those strikes were undertaken for the benefit of the ENTIRE craft is ridiculous, in view of the fact that the most powerful part of the craft (the employers) vehemently protested against being "benefited" in that manner. That this is true, will be soon demonstrated once more; as the employers are again organizing for the purpose of bringing about "much needed reforms."

The exploitation of labor by capital is rendered easier by the introduction of new inventions, which permit of the sub-division and intensification of labor, and, consequently, decrease the demand for labor, or, in other words, increase the demand for employment. If, as our critics contend, inventions create a demand for labor, why are the organizations of this country and Europe especially striving, by means of strikes, for shorter work-days; and why do they find it necessary to aid the unemployed by means of out-of-work benefits, traveling loans, employment bureaus, etc.? One would think, if the argument is valid, that the demand for labor is so great that the work-day ought to be lengthened, instead of shortened!

Again, why, if their contention is true, are there from 2 to 3 millions of unemployed in this country—the country of invention? And why doesn't that number decrease, instead of increase from year to year? The sweeping declaration that workmen have nothing to fear from inventions, is flatly refuted by the opposition shown by transferers, proofers, and other workmen, to the introduction of inventions. Every informed person knows that they endeavor to render such inventions impracticable and worthless. This organization is in possession of facts that demonstrate the truth of the above in the case of two lithographic inventions.

Now, let our critics show us, a lithographic organization that demands the lengthening of the work-day; that offers lithographers prizes for increased outputs; that wants boys and girls employed; that favors the teaching of art and other lithography—all in order to meet the demand for labor due to inventions—and then we'll capitulate. Let them also show how marvelously quick the unemployed are disappearing in the U. S. with the advent of new inventions, and then we'll capitulate again.

The use of inventions in industry demands large capital for their purchase and operation. This capital is very often not possessed by single individuals or partnerships. Stock corporations only can meet the financial requirements. These stock companies have thus become an economic necessity. Moreover, these stock corporations are often formed of a number of individual firms or separate partnerships; who, through their corporate organization, are enabled to close superfluous factories, save useless clerical and other labor, and, in many ways, reduce the cost of manufacture; or, in other words, demonstrate the economic value of co-operation. To oppose such corporations is to deny their economic necessity and value; and to evince a reactionary and injurious public spirit. Such corporations are inevitable steps in industrial evolution; and it is the duty of every thinking man to see that the good they accomplish, in the use of invention and combination, redounds to the benefit of society and not of their capitalist stockholders. This can only be accomplished by making them social, instead of capitalist property. In that way will the exploitation of labor for profit end. Our opponents do not take this view of the matter. They say that Protection or Free-Trade will break the trust. They say this despite the fact that the trust is proven an economic necessity of economic value. They say this despite the fact that Free-Trade England and Protection Germany alike present the same capitalist phenomena that this country does; and that, consequently, their remedy is no remedy at all. Now, since we believe the views of our opponents are injurious, reactionary and false, are we not justified in showing them no regard? Is it an evidence of sanity or sincerity to avow a high regard for doctrines one believes fatal to social progress? No; of course not; hence, we cheerfully plead guilty to the charge that we have no regard for the political views of our opponents. As for the religious beliefs of our opponents we have nothing to do with them. This organization welcomes Christian, Jew, Buddhist, Confucian, with the same spirit of solidarity. As we have never uttered the contrary, in this or any other document issued by our organization, we charge our critics with a deliberate intention to create a religious prejudice against us. He who pleads for religious rights, ought to be careful to be religious, i. e., truthful and honest, himself first. This our critics do not do, hence their plea for religious belief is hypocrisy and fraud, and deliberate malice. Lithographers, a few earnest words, in conclusion. If you would know what we are, read Socialist literature. We will send you such literature upon communication with us. Join our organization, also, in the end.

With fraternal greeting,
PROG. LITHO. ALLIANCE,
23 Duane street, City.

The English translation of Karl Marx' "Eighteenth Brumaire," that recently ran through THE PEOPLE, is now to be had bound in an elegant volume of 78 pages, with Marx' picture as frontispiece. This work is of great value. No Socialist, even though he be no student, and no student, even though he be no Socialist, can afford to be without it. Apply Labor News Co., 64 E. 4th street, N. Y. City. Price 25 cents.

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Uncle Sam & Brother Jonathan.

Brother Jonathan—I hope that after all the troubles between Labor and Capital at Panama, Virden, Hazleton, Cleveland, etc., people will act sensibly.

Uncle Sam—Amen.

B. J.—This is just the time to enforce the idea of arbitration.

U. S.—What?

B. J.—I mean compulsory arbitration.

U. S.—Worse yet.

B. J.—Would you have employers and employees fall together by the ears eternally and keep the whole country in commotion?

U. S.—Not I.

B. J.—Why, then, not arbitrate?

U. S.—Because there is nothing to arbitrate; and if there were, arbitration would be no good.

B. J.—Impatiently—Do you mean to side with those bloody-handed employers?

U. S.—Not I.

B. J.—Are they not grasping, grinding reproaches?

U. S.—Most assuredly.

B. J.—Then there IS something to arbitrate.

U. S.—Who produces all wealth?

B. J.—Labor.

U. S.—Has any of the capitalists concerned in these labor troubles ever done a stroke of useful work?

B. J.—Not a stroke.

U. S.—And yet millions upon millions are in their possession?

B. J.—Wrongfully, for that reason we should have arbitration.

U. S.—Are they entitled to anything?

B. J.—To not a thing?

U. S.—Who is entitled to it all?

B. J.—Why, we, the workers, of course.

U. S.—And yet you think there is something to arbitrate? Is there anything to arbitrate between a footpad and the robbed?

B. J.—No.

U. S.—To offer arbitration is to condone crime. There is either justice in robbery or there is none. Either an employer may skin his workers all he can, or skinning must be stopped altogether. There is no middle way.

B. J.—Granted; but even so, would not arbitration relieve the situation some?

U. S.—Not a bit.

B. J.—Would it not prevent excessive skinning?

U. S.—Not a particle.

B. J.—Suppose a Board of Arbitrators finds that a company is doing good business, and that the reason it gives for reducing wages is false—

U. S.—What then?

B. J.—Then—

U. S.—Yes, then—

B. J. hesitates long.
U. S.—You seem to have struck snag, eh?
B. J.—Then the Board would give decision and condemn the company—
U. S.—And the company might overturn the decision framed over the snags "Words; words, words."
B. J.—Would it mean nothing else?
U. S.—Nothing else. The Board could not compel the Company to operate its plant. If the Company wanted, it could shut down and starve its workers into submission; and then they would come back and sue for work, and the Company would triumph—"condemnation" by the Board or a condemnation.
B. J.—Is there, then, no way to enforce the decision of the Board?
U. S.—None whatever against the Company or capitalist; a decision against the workers could be enforced; the capitalists hold to-day the Government with its military and courts—these can always be used to aggravate the situation of the toiler and enforcing arbitrary decisions against them, but they will not be used against the employer, and could not be used without upsetting the system of private property in the means of production.
B. J.—Then upset the system!
U. S.—That is the only thing to do. Let her rip!

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376 ORGANIZER.

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THE SEIDENBERG SPECTRE.

Only a few years ago, when, had as things were, the condition of the cigar-makers and its unions in this city was better than it now is, and, a conference of some Officers of the International Union being called here to see what could be done to improve matters, one of the conferees, who suggested that the label be withheld from all firms that did not adhere to the Union's rule, was well-nigh mobbed. His suggestion was considered as down-right treason to the Union, "because," as one of the exasperated holders of "long-filler jobs" among the Label Committee put it, "what firm is there that we could grant the label to?" The man was right. His and his fellows' alarm for his Label Committee job attests to the fact that the shop hardly exists in New York where a strike could not be justified under the union rules. Essentially the same state of things, only in an aggravated degree, prevails to-day. The Seidenberg factory was, and continues to be, no exception to the rule. Why was it chosen and at that particular season, March of this year? The answer to the "why?" will be found in the answer to the question, How was the strike conducted and under what circumstances?

THE CASE SKETCHED.

On February 10 of this year the Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union, Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance No. 141, was organized at 98 Avenue C in this city out of men who refused, either to continue in, or to join a body whose perverse leaders were reducing the benefits to be derived from a labor organization, while, at the same time, they were increasing the burdens of the rank and file by a shower of extra assessments, and higher dues, together with higher salaries for themselves. The new organization was founded amid the wild yells and protests of Rudolph Modest of No. 90, David Heimerdinger, Brown, and some ten other approved labor fakirs of the International Union, and notorious enemies of the Socialist Labor party, who were present and threatened, then and there, to smash the new Union by striking in the first shop where the charter members of the Pioneers' worked at Seidenberg's; they promptly carried on an agitation in the shop, and before long their membership there had risen to thirty-one. This was the status of things when, on Monday morning, March 14, the Pioneers, going to their work, suddenly ran up against the International Union pickets, who, with Isaac Bennett as leading man, blandly informed them that the shop was on strike. (See Documents III, and IV.) The Pioneers asked "why?" they were told "against a reduction of wages"; they were astonished at that, having heard nothing about a "reduction" when they left the shop the Saturday previous. They declared their willingness to aid in resisting a reduction, if there were any, but they asked why they had not been consulted, being a bona fide organization; why they had been ignored; etc., etc. (Document IV.) Unable to get any satisfactory but only shuffling answers, and, being seized with a vague sense of foul play, they decided to enter the shop anyhow and find out. There they found out that, with the exception of their own floor, indeed the whole factory was out on strike. Hurried consultations were held, and they appointed a committee to go to the strikers' meeting, ascertain the cause of the strike, and, if found to be on a matter of wages, to offer the Pioneers' assistance and co-operation. At the meeting they again encountered Isaac Bennett. He was presiding. He refused them a hearing (Doc. III), although many of the strikers wanted to hear them; and, denouncing them as "scabs," Bennett hammered them down and out of the meeting. The Pioneers then sought information elsewhere. By some of the strikers they were told the strike was for higher wages (Docs. II, and VIII); by others they were bluntly told it was against themselves; and still others admitted frankly they knew not what the strike was about. In this confusion, the Pioneers walked out of the shop within an hour of having entered it, having in the interval done not a stroke of work; never returned to it (Doc. IV); and fell back upon their own organization for instructions. At a special meeting, held on the 18th of the same month, their Union adopted resolutions reviewing the situation and asking D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A., with which they are affiliated, to call a mass meeting of the strikers to ascertain the facts (Doc. I). The meeting asked for was called for the very next day at Bohemian Hall. Besides advertising it prominently in the "Volkszeitung," it was advertised by over 1,000 handbills, containing the resolutions of the 18th, thoroughly distributed among the strikers. At that meeting not one of the strikers appeared; Isaac Bennett had ordered them not to attend. Despite that, the Pioneers continued out of the shop. On Monday, two days later, the strike was "settled." The demand for higher wages, upon the promises of which the "Spanish workers" had been inveigled into striking, was abandoned; not a cent higher wages was obtained by any of the strikers; but quite a shower of dues and initiation fees was cropped by the International Union, and THE PIONEERS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE SHOP (Docs. II, and VIII).

The strike started on March 14 and ended on the 21. Beginning with A DAY BEFORE the strike started, and down to the day it ended, Isaac Bennett raved against the Alliance men as "scabs"; they were "scabbing" BEFORE the shop was on strike; they were "scabbing" when they went, Monday morning, the 14th, into the shop to find out; they were "scabbing" when they were sitting idle in their homes, and not a dog or cat was in the shop, the whole place being locked up. The "Committee of No. 90," which will presently step upon the scene, shrugging its shoulders as to Bennett's charging the Pioneers with "scabbing" before the shop was on strike and afterwards, when they were not in the shop, sought, on May 31, before the National Executive Committee, to justify Bennett's calling the Pioneers "scabs" and, therefore, not receiving

their Committee on the morning of March 14, on the technical ground that "it was a Union principle with which only practical trade unionists were familiar, and which learned men, such as Editors, could not comprehend," that if a shop is on strike any man who goes into the shop, especially if warned by the pickets, is looked upon as a "scab." This principle, thus sweepingly put, is false. One thing it is when men, whether members of a bona fide organization or not, who are strangers in a shop, brush by strikers' pickets and enter the shop, whatever the pretext may be; and another thing, however it is when men, members of a bona fide organization and at work in a shop, are one fine morning, without previous notice or consultation, suddenly informed that their shop "has been declared on strike against a reduction," refuse to accept the statement of what to them are FOREIGN AUTHORITIES, and go into the shop to ascertain the truth for themselves. The former may be; and another thing, however, it is when only one circumstance under which in the latter case, the term "scab" is hurled at such men, to wit, when the organization that uses the term declares war against the organization whose members it thus seeks to stigmatize; in other words, WHEN THE STRIKE IS AGAINST THE OTHER ORGANIZATION.

Not does the force of this argument escape the officers of No. 90. Indeed, they admit its correctness by the very tenacity with which they insist that "nobody knew" there were Pioneers at Seidenberg's when the strike was declared. The Committee of No. 90 so insisted before the N. E. C., on May 31, and another officer of the Union so declared it (Doc. VII). Granted, for the sake of argument, that this was so. Then Bennett found out his mistake, or lack of information, when, on the morning of March 14, his pickets encountered the Pioneers going to work. That certainly was notice enough. Why, then, was the Pioneers' Committee refused admittance and a hearing by him???

CONFIRMATORY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Two other circumstances combine to demonstrate that the strike at Seidenberg's was actually against the Alliance.

On Friday evening, March 25, Isaac Bennett being present at the regular meeting of the 28th Assembly District Branch, S. T. & L. P., of which he was then a member, and the Seidenberg strike being under discussion, he was there asked, in full meeting, this question: "Is it true that you have been going around declaring that the only object of the activity of certain members of the party in D. A. 49 of the K. of L. was 'to give Comrade Sanial a job' on the 'K. of L. Journal'?"

The witness of his having done so was present; Isaac Bennett looked around, saw him, and brazenly answered:

"Yes, it is true; and it is so; that was your only object,"—and more to the same effect.

This ignoble interpretation of the arduous and valuable work of party members in the K. of L. has been the interpretation that, for nearly three years, every labor fakir and foe of the S. T. & L. P. has been howling over and harping upon from one end of the country to the other. It is unnecessary to refute it, least of all is it here the place to go into that. Yet, what does the fact of Bennett's taking up that cry during the strike mean, and thus assailing men all of whom, at least as yet, had neither directly nor indirectly taken their stand on the strike; men, who, at the time he was taking up the cry, did not even know that such a strike was on? The second of the two circumstances above referred to as combining with this one to demonstrate that the Seidenberg strike was actually against the Alliance, will help to answer the question.

From the inception of the strike, and all along in his declarations, Isaac Bennett has laid much stress upon "the Pioneers having, under the guidance of Seidenberg's Superintendent Pisco, organized into their union the suspended or expelled members of the cigar-makers." What is the sense of the charge?

The cigar-makers, working at Seidenberg's, composed a sister Local Alliance of the Pioneers. It was represented in the then D. A. 1 (Central Labor Federation), while the Pioneers are represented in D. A. 49. On the very Monday when the strike started, March 14, the report in the "Volkszeitung" of the meeting of D. A. 1, that had taken place on Sunday, the day before, stated that a "Special Committee" of the Cigar-makers' Union "was granted the floor and complained that D. A. 49 and L. A. 141 (the Pioneers) had organized its suspended members into an L. A. and they had been recognized by Superintendent Pisco." At their first meeting upon that, March 17, the Pioneers appointed a Committee to the cigar-makers to demand that the false charge be retracted. (1) At the following meeting of the Pioneers, their Committee reported that the Cigar-makers' Union denied all knowledge of any such communication to D. A. 1; their delegates had made no such report; they had appointed no Committee to make any such complaint; and THAT BOHM, THE SECRETARY OF D. A. 1, MUST HAVE MADE ANOTHER MISTAKE. Not satisfied with any such explanation, the Pioneers ordered their Committee back with instructions to insist upon a retraction. (2) At the following meeting of the Pioneers, no retraction having yet appeared in the reports of D. A. 1, they ordered their Committee to again repair to the Cigar-makers' and say that, if the retraction was not made at the very next Sunday meeting of D. A. 1, charges would be preferred against them before the General Executive Board, S. T. & L. A. (3) At the next Sunday meeting of D. A. 1 the Cigar-makers' Union retracted the charge, saying that "the report made by a Committee, according to which it was alleged that D. A. 49 had organized 17 of their expelled members into the

Pioneer Cigar-makers' Alliance, was false, and had not been authorized by the Union." (1) Who were the "Committee" that had made the false report to D. A. 1? To this day, it has not been possible to ascertain their names. Did such a "Committee" ever exist? If so, who manufactured it?

The facts in the case are that, one day, among a batch of applicants for membership to the Pioneers, there were 17 expelled or suspended members of the Cigar-makers' Union. Before their admission, the fact was discovered and they were rejected. Not yet having any "application cards," the Pioneers had been using their "membership cards" as such. Thus the names of these 17 men DO appear on 17 Pioneer "member cards." But D. A. 49 has the stamp system of dues, AND NOT A STAMP APPEARS ON ANY OF THOSE 17 CARDS, thus proving that none of those 17 men was ever admitted to membership. Despite repeated explanations on this head, and thoroughly understanding the matter, Isaac Bennett has been using those cards, which, so far from proving his point, attest, by the absence of dues-stamps, to the fact that the men never were admitted, and he has gone about seeking to hoodoo the ungarbled with such "proofs," even after the official retraction by the Cigar-makers' Union itself.

THE CONSPIRACY.

The conspiracy against the Pioneers was elaborate. A cloud in the eyes of the public and of Alliance organizations themselves was to be raised over D. A. 49, with whom the Pioneers were affiliated; the scabbiest act of taking up expelled members of sister bodies was to be imputed to them; to pile on the agony over the D. A. that had dared to encroach upon what the fakir Officers of the International Union look upon as their special field to fish in, ignoble purposes had to be imputed to active party members, even if by so doing even Comrade Sanial, wholly disconnected from the whole affair, had to be dragged, along with them, into the mire. And above all scabbiestness was, under all circumstances, to be fastened upon the Pioneers themselves. When the plan of the strike was being hatched, they, a bona fide Union, known to be in Seidenberg's shop, were kept wholly in the dark, and thus a net was spread to catch them where, under the pretense of "union technicality," they could be made out "scabs" in the eyes of the unthinking; and to give greater show of truth to the charge, the fakirs stood back, but the man picked out to lead in the dirty work and thus inflict a blow upon the whole New Trade Unionist movement, ay, upon the party itself, was one who had long been considered an adversary of the International Union's fakirs, an upholder of New Trade Unionism, and of its contentions as to the worthlessness and injuriousness of the "International Union's pure and simple," a party man, a member of the progressive Union No. 90—ISAAC BENNETT.

CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TANGLE.

Isaac Bennett reckoned without his host. The Seidenberg strike was not allowed to drop into oblivion, it rose a spectre to plague him. He found it necessary to explain in writing; he begins by calling upon witnesses (Doc. III); but his witness goes back upon him (Doc. IV); he then seeks to disengage himself, only to throttle himself tighter (Doc. V, first part); and, finally, wishing to escape the charge of having given false testimony, he recklessly tries to throw upon others the odium of untruthfulness (Doc. V, second part) and succeeds only in tangling himself faster; surely, if, as he argues in the second part of this document, the men who went into the shop, despite the warning of his pickets, lied when "they gave themselves out as members of the Alliance," then, upon what ground did he on so many occasions, at the already mentioned session of the 28th Assembly District Branch, S. T. & L. P., among others, denounce "the Alliance men," "the Pioneer Cigar-makers" as "scabs"? Which of the two statements is false? The two statements can not both be true. But in trying this last dodge, Bennett is no less unsuccessful. What purports to be the official declaration of his own Union over the signature of one of its own fellow Officers, admits that there were "3 Pioneers" at Seidenberg (Doc. VII). In trying to minimize Bennett's wrongful action, and reducing 31 Pioneers to 3, Groeninger here admits enough to convict his associate. Whichever way Bennett turns, he is tripped.

Pitiable is the spectacle presented by Isaac Bennett, and yet instructive withal, so instructive as to compel its complete presentation—however much one's heart may be wrung in the doing of deed. Bennett felt, as so many others before him, tempted by the corruption funds of the International Union. The increased difficulties of the struggle for an existence had swept away most of his customers; he gave up manufacturing, and took up the business of Label Committee, Strike Committee and Picket Duty with their \$3 and \$5 a day revenue; in the conflict between Principles and a Living, the Principles went by the board, all the easier, as the freedom to use phrases would remain untouched and the downfall could thus be veiled—and Bennett thus dropped to the level of cat's paw for the labor fakirs of the International Union. Whither Bennett is now drifting in the conflict between his personal needs and his duty to the working class has more recently been illustrated by an action that called down upon him the severe censure of his own Union No. 90. (2)

No. 90's OFFICERS NOW STEP UP.

Spiked by Katz (Docs. IV, and IX), strangled by himself and a fellow officer (Docs. II, III, IV, and VII).

(1) Report of C. L. F. D. A. 1 in "Volkszeitung" of April 4, and in THE PEOPLE of April 10.

(2) Bennett is a member of the Strike Committee. For months a strike had been on against the cigar manufacturing firm of Bondy & Lederer. The strike seemed hopeless, and the Union's men being anxious to go back to work, he was ordered by his Union to vote to call the strike on. Their interests and his own ran foul of each other. Their interests demanded work, and his interests demanded work, but "work," with him, is not in the shop but at picket, etc., and that meant to keep up the strike. His interests carried the day. Despite his instructions, he did not vote as ordered. On this account his Union No. 90, passed a vote of censure upon him on last Oct. 9.

and unexpectedly pursued by the spectre that his action had conjured up, Bennett fled for refuge behind the Officers of his Union—No. 90. As the fakirs had sought to conceal their rascality behind the until then fair name of Bennett, so did he now seek to cover up his wrongdoing behind the reputation of the Officers of his own Union for progressiveness and devotion to Socialism. The first step in this direction was the pulling of wires to secure a white-washing resolution in his own behalf (Doc. VI). With that performance, the officers of No. 90 step on the scene, and keep it until, in turn, they themselves begin to slide off by trying to shove their Union into the fight—their Union which, as will appear, was and remains innocent as the unborn babe.

On May 31, a Committee of Union 90, consisting mainly of Officers thereof, appeared before the National Executive Committee, S. T. & L. P. It came with two suggestions, both springing from the "Seidenberg Spectre" publications in THE PEOPLE.

The first was that the Editor of THE PEOPLE should not concern himself with local affairs; the Committee spoke German, it used the term "Lokal Angelegenheiten"; to meddle with such affairs, the Committee claimed, was to fritter away energies on small matters, and to cause heartburnings that impeded the propagandistic work of the Socialist comrades in the Unions; the Editor of THE PEOPLE should busy himself with national affairs only.

The Committee was asked whether it did not realize that in the Social question all "local affairs" had a national bearing and vice versa, all "national affairs" affected local spots; it was asked to explain where local affairs ended and where "national" ones began; it was also asked to specify what it meant by "affairs" (Angelegenheiten).

In the course of its answers it became clear that by "Angelegenheiten," the Committee meant the Labor Fakir; it used the word "Angelegenheiten" merely as a euphonic term; so clear, indeed, did this become, that they were asked to illustrate; was, for instance, Mr. David Heimerdinger (the labor fakir, who assisted Isaac Bennett as a picketman in his crusade against the Pioneers in this locality, and who two years ago made a fakir tour of the whole country, was he a local or a national "Angelegenheit"?)

The Committee dropped that line of argument, and still using its euphonic term of "Angelegenheit," for Labor Fakir, proceeded to suggest that the Editor of THE PEOPLE might limit his operations to the "Angelegenheiten" of such "Unions as No. 144 and others of the International Cigar-makers' Union" in this city; the Committee would not find any fault with that; but the Editor of THE PEOPLE should not disturb the "Angelegenheiten" of such a progressive body as Union 90, because, if he did, the progressive members, like the Committee-men, would find their propagandistic work made very difficult.

The N. E. C. rejected this whole line of suggestions as radically defective, whatever special meaning was attached to the term "Angelegenheit."

The second suggestion of the Committee was that the Editor of THE PEOPLE should exercise greater care in the acceptance of communications. A letter had appeared in THE PEOPLE of May 22, signed by Joe Cohen and Jack Brittan (Doc. VIII). The Committee was of the opinion that the Seidenberg strike being over so long ago, its resuscitation now by that letter could have no effect other than to assist the firm of Bondy & Lederer against whom a strike was now on; if the Editor of THE PEOPLE would exercise greater caution he would not commit such a blunder.—The file of THE PEOPLE was fetched; it was shown to the Committee that the Cohen and Brittan letter could not be said to "resuscitate" the Seidenberg strike, seeing that ALL ALONG articles and letters had been appearing in THE PEOPLE, since the settlement of the strike, under that very title of "The Seidenberg Spectre," the object being not to allow that misdeed to fall into oblivion. The Cohen and Brittan letter was read and the Committee were told that only if the letter contained false statements could fault be found with it; that, however, it tallied with facts published officially by the Union itself (Doc. II), and with other facts; and that, therefore, if, indeed, it affected the Bondy & Lederer strike injuriously, the fault lay, not with the letter or its publication, but with the Strike Committee for having been guilty of such crimes against Labor; the Committee were reminded of the incident when Lassalle, being arrested for alleged inflammatory writings, reminded his judges that, not his "writing," but the "facts" were inflammatory, that he could not be held responsible for them, that THEY must suffer who were responsible.

The Committee declared that the Cohen and Brittan letter was essentially wrong; its gravamen lay in the charge that Bennett and the whole Strike Committee had deceived the "Spanish floor" workers with promises of securing higher pay for them through the strike; the charge was a false suggestion; learned people, like Editors, could not be as accurately informed upon the union rules as practical workers; and the Committee proceeded to explain that, true enough, the Union Constitution forbade the striking for higher wages at the season when the Seidenberg strike broke out, but that, if a strike is declared against a reduction, then "individual" demands can always be backed to the original demand for higher wages, included; only that then, if the other demands are complied with by the employer, the strike may not be prolonged for higher wages without forfeiting International protection (Doc. XIII).

The Committee's attention was called to a fundamental error in their argument against the correctness of the main charge in the Cohen and Brittan letter: one thing it is to drop the "individual" demands for higher wages that are backed to demands allowed by the Union, when men are anyhow on strike against a reduction, and another thing it is to induce men to come out on strike, as the "Spanish workers" had been induced, on the promise that their wages are to be raised, and then drop their demands; the former act was not fraudulent, the latter was a fraud upon the men; Bennett and the Strike Committee had committed this fraud on the "Spanish workers"; as to all the

other people on strike, "individual" demands may have been made with propriety for higher wages and dropped, seeing that, with them, the strike was ostensibly against the reduction said to be implied in the establishment of the "Kelly floor"; as to the "Spanish workers," however, they were in no way threatened or affected by the "Kelly floor," consequently they could have gone out only upon a demand for more pay, all the more as they were not members of the Union; that was the lure held out to them; a swindle was practised upon all the more galling to them, as, not only did they not get what they were promised if they struck, but, by the terms of settlement, they had to join the Union and thus make outlays for initiation fees and dues; they had been cheated into fighting against themselves, and lost their jobs besides—a not unusual affair with fakirs' "settlements."

The Committee was then driven from one false statement after another; they first declared Cohen and Brittan to be "notorious scabs and non-union men"; being promptly met by the Editor of THE PEOPLE, who showed that Cohen and Brittan were members of the International Cigar-makers' Union, the Committee then declared that Brittan and Cohen were "expelled members"; being again shown that that was false, one of the Committee of No. 90 came forward with the admissions that Brittan and Cohen WERE members of the Union and that they WERE NOT expelled, but that just then they were "suspended" and that Brittan traveled under a false name; and, finally, being asked what his true name was, the Committee said that he signed himself "Jack" Brittan but his real name was "John" Brittan, thus revealing that the Committee either did not know that "Jack" stands for "John," or that it tried to impose upon the N. E. C. (Doc. XVI), upon all of which the N. E. C. decided that in the particular case complained of all reasonable care had been exercised in the acceptance of correspondence by THE PEOPLE.

No. 90's REJECTED COMMUNICATIONS.

On the morning of the same day that the Committee of No. 90 appeared before the N. E. C. with its suggestions and complaints, it forwarded to THE PEOPLE a communication purporting to be an answer to the Cohen and Brittan letter. The communication contained libelous matter, seeing it imputed a dishonorable alias to Brittan, and, furthermore, bore no signature other than "The Committee," thus, if published, rendering THE PEOPLE liable without defence. On this ground, as set forth in the Letter Box of June 5, THE PEOPLE declined to publish "The Committee's" answer. From that time on, No. 90's officers left THE PEOPLE aside and addressed itself direct to the N. E. C. It there appeared three times.—June 7, July 12 and Nov. 22,—with communications demanding their publication in THE PEOPLE, and was denied each time.

Documents X, and XII, were successively refused publication by the N. E. C., because the first contained not the remotest attempt at a refutation of the charges of Cohen and Brittan, and the second, or amended one, was essentially no better. Both ran away from the real and burning points raised by Cohen and Brittan, and that helped to show the desperate tricks adopted at the Seidenberg strike to give it a color of legality and thereby conceal the conspiracy against the Pioneers that lay at its bottom. The two communications of No. 90's Committee sought to avoid the point and overcome it by inference in an attempt to discredit the characters of the writers (Cohen and Brittan). But the Committee defeated their own purpose by overshooting their mark: Their endeavor to make Cohen and Brittan out to be scab agents for Bondy & Lederer, claiming them to have offered the girls on strike "nice and sweet things," besides "new dresses," if they went to work, and then to have CONFIDED TO THE GIRLS THAT THEIR OWN (COHEN AND BRITTAN'S) REWARD BE "A FOREMANSHIP AND \$50," produced peals of laughter from the workmen on the N. E. C.; not so as Cohen and Brittan were claimed to have acted as scab-agents went to act; however profuse they may be in promises of "nice and sweet things" to strikers, it is not in the nature of the scab-agents' work to confide to the people they are working upon the "nice and sweet things" they themselves are to be rewarded with; not so, for instance, did Mr. David Heimerdinger, Isaac Bennett's associate in the Seidenberg strike, act when, in 1886-87, he officiated as scab-agent for the firm of Simon Bros. in this city (Doc. XV).

No. 90's Committee itself realized the fishiness of this charge, all the more seeing that Cohen and Brittan had been engaged by the Strike Committee itself to jolly the Bondy & Lederer girls on strike, and, consequently, their promises of "nice and sweet things" were probably true without their being Bondy & Lederer's agents. So weak, indeed, did No. 90's Committee itself feel on this point that it felt the need of buttressing an otherwise sufficient charge with the charges of "non-unionism," "scabism" and the bearing of an alias against Cohen and Brittan—all of which were shown to be false by the N. E. C., as previously recited.

As to Document XII, its publication was denied because it was again an evident attempt to run away from the real point, the point raised in 40 out of the 44 lines of Katz' communication (Doc. XI), and slurring that over by a seeming and swaggering refutation of a minor point made by him and covering only the 4 last lines, and after all admitted in the main by No. 90's answer itself (Doc. XIII). The N. E. C. did not deem THE PEOPLE's columns the place for such sort of dialectics.

As to Document XIV, its publication was refused by the N. E. C. because it went off at a slant, and thus, intentionally or otherwise, brought confusion into an issue that, it was becoming more and more evident, would soon have to come to a point, and consequently, should not be allowed to be entangled. As the document itself starts setting out, it was the report of a special meeting of No. 90, held to discuss "the attitude taken by the National Executive Committee of the S. T. & L. P. toward Union 90"; the N. E. C. had been invited to be represented. The issue was "the attitude of the N. E. C."; it was a tangling up of matters to make others the issue, as the document does. At that "meeting of Union

No. 90," out of its 1,684 members, barely 30 were present, the majority of whom was made up of the Officers of the Union, besides men as Karl Arnold, who, always claiming to be a "progressive workman" and a "Socialist," was caught on the registration roll of Tammany Hall only shortly before, Rudolph Modest, Gillis, and more such specimens of "progressiveness," notorious Debsist-Anarchists and foes of the party. Whatever interest a majority made up of such elements may have had in facing about, the N. E. C. did not care to allow itself to be hoodwinked.

Finally, Document XVII, was refused publication because it carried the barefacedness of falsification beyond the point of endurance (Doc. XVI).

This last document (Doc. XVII) closes the second, and seeks to open a third act in the "Seidenberg Spectre," a typical drama of the present stage of the Labor Movement.

ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO GOAD No. 90 INTO THE FIGHT.

The Labor Fakirs of the I. C. M. U., alarmed for their blood-money at sight of the organization of the Pioneers, plotted its ruin; yet knowing the disrepute in which they are held in this city, dared not themselves come forward. The First Act in the drama of the Seidenberg Spectre is enacted with Isaac Bennett, a "progressive trade unionist" as the actor. Resting upon the statements of this Isaac Bennett, the fakir C. M. I. U. delegates in this city's fakirs' convective, the Central Labor Union, announced on Sunday, June 3, with full mouths, and could not sufficiently dilate on the announcement, that 31 ALLIANCE CIGAR-MAKERS HAD LOST THEIR PLACES AT SEIDENBERG'S, and the announcement was echoed, and rehearsed in the capitalist press. Here in the city, THAT was the important point; the "scab" charge was, of course, also made, but that was not, here, of prime importance; THE important point here was to make a show of strength against Socialist Unions, and thereby prevent their growth. Outside of the city, the "scab" charge was THE point, and, indeed, from Texas to Maine the Labor Fakir and his press utilized, for all they were worth, the weapon thus placed in their hands against the whole Socialist movement by "even such a progressive trade unionist and Socialist as Isaac Bennett, of Union No. 90." The fakirs' point seemed carried.

But the Seidenberg Spectre rose more ominous, made all the more so by the unbridled glee of fakirdom. Bennett, pursued by the spectre, sought refuge behind the Officers of his Union. These allow themselves to be shoved, like he had been; and, thereupon, the Second Act is enacted (Docs. VII, X, XII, XIII, and XIV).

Finally, defeated in their purpose, as Bennett had been, several of the Officers then sought to pull up their Union itself on the stage. The claim that Union No. 90 was pronounced "untrustworthy," etc., by the Editor of THE PEOPLE (Doc. XVII) at one of the sessions of the N. E. C. is a pure fabrication, that the stress of the No. 90's Committee drove them to. (1) But though they thus violently ring the bell for the Third Act, the curtain refuses to rise: So disgusted and disheartened is the rank and file at the contradictory, vacillating and often suspicious conduct of most of their Officers that, though over 1,600 strong, a meeting of 30 members is considered wonderful. The men and women satisfy themselves with paying their dues and assessments, often with tears in their eyes at the evident extortion, but submissive, in order to "save themselves trouble."

The "Seidenberg Spectre" will not down. It rises and sways ominously over the head of Fakirdom. It is a palpating concentration of this principle, a principle bound to assert itself.

A STRIKE IS NOT NECESSARILY A PROLETARIAN MOVE. INSTIGATED BY AND CONDUCTED FOR FAKIRS' INTERESTS, IT IS A MOVE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS. AS SUCH, A STRIKE IS THE MOST INSIDIOUS WEAPON OR MANOEUVRE OF CAPITALISM; AS SUCH IT IS NOT ENTITLED TO AID, BUT DESERVES ONLY RUTHLESS OPPOSITION.

DOCUMENT I.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY PIONEER CIGAR-MAKERS, L. A. 141, S. T. & L. A., MARCH 18.

[THE PEOPLE, March 27.]

WHEREAS, Last Monday, the 14th inst., the employees of the cigar manufacturing firm of Seidenberg & Co., consisting of members of the International Cigar-makers' Union and of others, who are not members, working on the Seidenberg floors of that firm, went out on strike without any demands being presented to the firm by the officers of the International Cigar-makers' Union, who are running this strike; and WHEREAS, The members of this Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union (Local Alliance 141, of the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance, affiliated with D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A.) who were at work on strike without any demands being presented to the firm by the officers of the International Cigar-makers' Union, and who were otherwise prevented by officers of the International Cigar-makers' Union, said Bennett included, although the said officers were willing to hear our committee; and WHEREAS, The said members of the Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union are thus left entirely in the dark as to the situation, all the more as the statements are very conflicting on the causes of the strike; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union, in special session assembled, this 18th day of March, request D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A., to call a mass meeting of all the employees of the firm of Seidenberg & Co., those on strike and those not on strike, to meet on strike, for to-morrow (Saturday), afternoon, at some convenient place up-town to discuss the situation and ascertain from the said employees whether or not the further continuance of the strike is warranted.

(1) The fact on this head is that the Committee finding, contrary to its expectation, that the Editor of THE PEOPLE was not so "learned" to inform himself, was so thoroughly posted that he forced the Committee to abandon one false statement after another, and, after another, their member Emil Adam tried a bluff, and bluntness called the Editor of THE PEOPLE: "Do you mean to say that you know nothing about the 'Seidenberg Spectre'?" "The Union lies!" "Whereupon he was promptly answered: 'I never said anything to justify the idea that I consider you, or all of you, three pen together, as the whole of Union 90.'"

- (1) Pioneers' minutes, March 17.
- (2) Pioneers' minutes, March 24.
- (3) Pioneers' minutes, March 31.

members of the Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union, out of the shop, could improve the chances of success of their striking fellow workers.

DOCUMENT II.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF SETTLEMENT OF SEIDENBERG STRIKE.

[The N. Y. "Volkszeitung," March 23.]

Obedient to the call of the Joint Strike Committee of I. C. M. U. the striking workmen of the Seidenberg shop, 71st street and Avenue A, met yesterday forenoon at the Sokol Turn Hall, 71st street, to consider the report of the Special Committee which was to confer day before yesterday with the representative of the firm. The Committee reported that after a five-hour's negotiation with Superintendent Plisco, the agreement was reached that the so-called "Kelly Floor," where the members of the Pioneer Cigar-makers' Union were working, should be closed, and that in case the floor was opened again it shall stand under the jurisdiction of the I. C. M. U. Further, more, that on all cigars, bunches and are to be paid for present and to be paid for the cigars of the same sort. As to the higher wages of \$2 per 1,000 of Spanish work, Plisco declared that the report was received with acceptance. The report was received with acceptance. As a protest was raised on the part of the Spanish workers against the agreement on the ground that their demand for an increase of \$2 was not granted, and that the firm was not willing to grant the concession of higher wages, the meeting decided to send the Special Committee, together with a Committee of the "Spanish floor," to the firm to obtain the concession of higher wages. At its meeting, the Committee reported that, after a long explanation, Plisco had positively declined to grant the demanded increase of wages. He had, however, in that Spanish workers had to close the Spanish floor altogether, he had made a contract with two jobbers, according to which it was possible for him to grant the higher wages desirable for the workers of the Spanish floor. The Spanish floor held a meeting and agreed in a declaration that they were ready to drop their demand for the present, so as not to keep the other male and female hands any longer from their work. The meeting decided to resume work to-day, whereof the firm was notified.

DOCUMENT III.

[Letter of I. Bennett in N. Y. "Volkszeitung" of March 24.]

The troubles in Seidenberg & Co.'s factory are of old date. They were right along started and then again bridged by the Superintendent. I have been understood, Superintendent, to render him indispensable to the firm, on the one hand, and on the other, to give himself up to the grace of the workingmen. To give him the approval himself a useful and submissive servant; towards the workingmen he played the role of "good friend" and adviser.

About four months ago when about 50, some of whom had worked there from 12 to 15 years, were discharged because the cost of cigars at which they worked was no longer to be made. The wages for this no longer to be made. The discharged men, mostly old men, found it very hard to get work elsewhere. They quickly snatched at the proposition made by Plisco to be employed by him. He had no work, but he had work for \$3.50, but that he wanted no trouble with the Union. If they agreed to do the work, he would do it. The men took the work willingly, and got back their former jobs.

Some time later, the Joint Advisory Board received information of this state of affairs and proceeded to move. A Committee—Harris, Woell, Lange and Bennett—looked themselves to the firm. Plisco proposed that he be allowed to employ 50 hands at that work. The Committee declined that, and the men were ordered out on strike about six weeks ago. The strike lasted only three days. The agreement was concluded, established, and other things, first, that the work in question shall be done in the factory only if the full wages are paid; second, that no cigars shall be made; and third, that the men employed shall belong to the Union.

Only a few days later, and Plisco began to seek to break his agreement. He sent some of his men to the factory, and found some who were willing to do the work in question for \$3, and to begin work on Monday, February 28. The cigar-makers' Union, however, decided at that meeting, held Feb. 25, to uphold the agreement, and to suspend every member that should accept the work in question. Some of them were warned and some were expelled. The Union called it that it was against the principles of Socialism to press wages further down. The men who were warned declared they cared not, and would do the work anyhow.

The cigar-makers appointed a Committee to notify Plisco of their decision. He refused to receive the committee. The committee then established the "Kelly floor," where the work, that was subject to the reduced wages, was to be done, contrary to the agreement, for \$3.

On March 4, Harris, Bennett and Lange went to Plisco to remind him of the provisions of the agreement, and to call his attention to it that he had broken the same. He declared:

"I have been called a liar; I shall now be one. If you want a fight, I am ready." As the Sub-Strike Committee could not alone take action upon this important matter, it was referred to the Joint Advisory Board of the United Unions of New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey. On the 10th, this body decided to order the factory out of the ground, and to suspend every member that should accept the work in question. The men who were warned declared they cared not, and would do the work anyhow.

On Monday, March 14, in the morning, Bennett and Lange (Union 90) and Katz (Union 141) and also a party member spoke to several of the men employed in the "Kelly floor," explaining the situation there. They declared that that did not concern them, that they belonged to the Alliance. They would not be the principle of Socialism did not consist in underbidding other workmen in the struggle for wages. IT HAD NO EFFECT.

Thereupon, at about 10 a. m., there appeared at the meeting of the strikers a "Committee" from the so-called Kelly floor, among them also those men who, that same morning, had been told the truth by Bennett, Lange and Katz. For this reason, and also because they appeared with instructions from Plisco, their organizer, [they were not admitted.]

It must not be forgotten in this connection that the men employed on the Kelly floor organized themselves at the instigation of Plisco, and that the men who were taken at the factory, and that they were told that on March 17 they should appear before Pioneer Alliance No. 141 and there receive their books.

These are the plain facts, without ornament or coloring. It is the truth and only the truth; no one, whoever he may be, can gain say them. If, nevertheless, the attempt is made, then I shall be obliged to bring some more facts to the knowledge of the party comrades, and at the same time, I promise that I shall be simply, matter of fact, because he, who has truth on his side, does not need to throw mud or to bestow insulting epithets upon others.

With Socialist greetings, I. BENNETT.

DOCUMENT IV.

[Letter from Rudolph Katz in N. Y. "Volkszeitung" of March 29.]

Last Thursday, there appeared under "Voices from the People" a communication from I. Bennett in which my name is used in a manner as though I accepted as true all that Bennett asserts. This is not the case.

On Monday morning, March 14, Comrade Bennett sent me to do picket duty. I was made, and the other members of the C. M. U. Cigar-makers went into the Union. I was told they were the members of the

Union, but was published in the Union,

Alliance. Bennett and I spoke to them and called them not to go into the shop. So far Bennett tells the truth. BUT THE ANSWER THAT WE GOT WAS NOT SUCH AS BENNETT DESCRIBES. THE UNION MEN DECLARED THAT THE STRIKE DID NOT CONCERN THEM. WHAT THERE MEN DID SAY TO US WAS THAT THEY WOULD WILLINGLY JOIN IN THE STRIKE, BUT THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY THEY WERE NOT NOTIFIED. WHAT THEY STRIKE WAS ABOUT. AND WHY THEY WERE IGNORED BY THE C. M. U.

"WE ARE NOT ONLY MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, ONE OF THEM SAID, 'BUT ALSO MEMBERS OF I. C. M. U.' AND HE PULLED HIS MEMBERSHIP CARD OUT OF HIS POCKET. This happened at about 8 in the morning. At 9 the meeting of the strikers took place. At the Alliance men that appeared there was not admitted. But the members of the Alliance did not then go to work.

On Wednesday, March 15, I was then told I need not return the next day, although, of all the members of the Committee, I was the only one who could speak the English, German and Bohemian languages, and who therefore could be useful at the meetings of the strikers as well as before the shop.

This happened because the gentlemen of the Strike Committee had discovered, through private conversations that I had with them, that the \$3 a day, that was paid us, could not buy me. That's why I was no longer needed. I then spoke with Comrade Bennett also about the strike. He insisted in saying that the members of the Pioneer Alliance were scabs. I said to Bennett that I was in the shop at work, and that they had gone into the shop on Monday but had come out immediately, and could not, accordingly, be called scabs.

These also are FACTS, and to them must be added another FACT, that, at the meeting where the strike was ended, Comrade Bennett had said that the men of the Great Union of the Pure and Simple needed not be ashamed of. He was, indeed, applauded; and how, and the biggest fakirs present were the loudest in their applause.

DOCUMENT V.

[Letter of I. Bennett in N. Y. "Volkszeitung" of April 2.]

But, Comrade Katz! Is it not always better to proceed logically? To wander about the question of the strike has no purpose if the honest intention exists to bring about clearness; and what the members should have is clearness and truth.

THE NAME COMRADE KATZ WAS CITED ONLY ONCE IN MY OBJECTIVE EXPLANATION OF MATTERS, NAMELY, WHEN THE PICKETS WERE MEXICAN. THE NAME COMRADE KATZ WAS CITED ONLY ONCE IN MY OBJECTIVE EXPLANATION OF MATTERS, NAMELY, WHEN THE PICKETS WERE MEXICAN. THE NAME COMRADE KATZ WAS CITED ONLY ONCE IN MY OBJECTIVE EXPLANATION OF MATTERS, NAMELY, WHEN THE PICKETS WERE MEXICAN.

On March 10 it was decided to call the men out on strike. On March 11, Superintendent Plisco requested the Alliance to appoint a Committee to organize the recently suspended members of the Cigar-makers' Union. On the same day Secretary Eckstein appeared before the meeting of the strikers to come to the meeting of March 17 and fetch their books. FROM THIS IT FOLLOWS THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT STRIKING. ON MARCH 12 AND 14, THEY ALREADY GAVE THEMSELVES OUT AS MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE.

DOCUMENT VI.

[THE PEOPLE, April 24, 1898.]

The below letter, published in the New York "Volkszeitung" of last Sunday, tells its own tale. It is a letter from I. Bennett, a report of our Union in which it endorses the action of our fellow-member Bennett.

Through, from the communications to the "Volkszeitung," one may arrive at some other conclusion than Union 90. It is not my purpose to touch that side of the question. In the "Volkszeitung" of the 14th instant, is a report of our Union in which it endorses the action of our fellow-member Bennett.

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decision without the Union's knowing anything about it. Neither does Mr. Groelinger bring out the fact that the day before his letter was written the Union held a meeting at which there a motion was made to repudiate Max Halter's letter, and that nothing came of the motion. Verily the Seidenberg Spectre is marching on.—Editor THE PEOPLE.

DOCUMENT VIII.

THE SEIDENBERG SPECTRE STALKING ONWARD WITH INTENSIFIED STALK-POOR WORKERS CHEATED WITH FALSE PROMISES.

[THE PEOPLE, May 22 and Sept. 4, 1898.]

To THE PEOPLE.—As two of the "Spanish" workers who took part in the late Seidenberg cigar-makers' strike, we desire to give the public some information on what happened there.

Saturday, March 12, in the morning, as we were going to the shop to work, we met a Committee of the International Union, which told us "the shop is on strike." We inquired, in a confidential tone inquired, what reward awaited their hosts, and received this information: Jack Brittan, a FOREMAN-SHIP, Joe Cohen, \$50.00, and a man named WORK. The girls remained faithful and refused, though new dresses and the like were lavishly promised.

There you have a true picture of the men, who wrote "The Seidenberg Spectre." Can you believe anything they say? Judge for yourself! By order of Union 90.

ADAM, HERM. WOLTER. The Committee.

Three of the striking Ladies, very active in the meetings, and also serving as pickets, were considered to be dangerous on the ground of their influence upon the strikers. Could they be induced, to go to work, all the others would follow, and the collapse of the strike would be inevitable. Mr. Jack Brittan was supplied with money, to bring about this result. And he and his mate Joe Cohen invited the three girls, treated them with wine and food, and told them about all the nice and sweet things, they would get,—if they only went to work.

Then the girls, who had listened very attentively to the promises, in a confidential tone inquired, what reward awaited their hosts, and received this information: Jack Brittan, a FOREMAN-SHIP, Joe Cohen, \$50.00, and a man named WORK. The girls remained faithful and refused, though new dresses and the like were lavishly promised.

There you have a true picture of the men, who wrote "The Seidenberg Spectre." Can you believe anything they say? Judge for yourself! By order of Union 90.

ADAM, HERM. WOLTER. The Committee.

DOCUMENT XI.

THE SEIDENBERG SPECTRE CASTS A SPITTER.

[THE PEOPLE, July 3, 1898.]

To THE PEOPLE.—Among the "labor leaders" who manage to make a fine living out of the dues and assessments paid by the International Cigar-makers of New York, there is one Prince, who is bent on his living to denounce the S. T. & L. A.; that has become one of his "features." It was he, for instance, who, together with Dan Harris, tried to help the strikers in his efforts to disrupt the Alliances of the shoe-workers. In pursuit of his and other fairs' policy the Alliance men must be always spoken of as scabs, in this way they seek to discredit the party itself in the public eye. This policy they pursued in the Seidenberg strike.

This Prince is now reaping his reward for trading honest New York Trade Unionists and the Labor Committee granted it to him, although he is not entitled to it. Prince is a manufacturer of cigars, but he also works as a manufacturer of lies, and he has been taking the broad out of the mouth of poor members who have no "capital." The label is never granted to such men, who, besides manufacturing lies, work in the shops. Mr. Prince got the label, and he got it upon a speech made in his behalf by Isaac Bennett, who on previous occasions had called Prince a fakir, but who now calls Prince a "real" and distinguished brother trade unionist.

A peculiar circumstance connected with this incident is that, although Bennett was censured for this action at the Board meeting of No. 90, the censure was suppressed (by whom?) from the Board's report.

Member of Union 141, I. C. M. U. New York, June 28.

DOCUMENT XII.

[Publication refused by National Executive Committee, S. L. P., on July 12, 1898.]

By order of Union 90.

ADAM, HERM. WOLTER. The Committee.

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